

2008

Atlantic Flyway Review: Region III (Western Ridge)- Fall 2007 Powdermill Nature Reserve

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GCCW in connection with his own studies of Imperial Eagles, helped make the arrangements for Giorgi to receive training in banding techniques at Powdermill so that he could return to the Republic of Georgia to establish some pilot sites and, perhaps eventually, a national ringing scheme. We were delighted to have a surprise visit from Elizabeth P. (Betty) Neidringhouse on the morning of 21 Oct. Throughout much of the 1970s, Betty was the preparator in the Section of Exhibits, Design and Production for the Carnegie Museum of Natural History. Lastly, we acknowledge the work of our data entry operator at Carnegie Museum's Section of Birds, Marilyn Niedermeier, who enters, checks, and double checks all of our banding records, and who is responsible for generating banding schedules and filling data requests.

Powdermill Nature Reserve 400-0791

Rector, Westmoreland County, PA

Adrienne J. Leppold, Robert S. Mulvihill, and Robert C. Leberman, Banders

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Report for 2007:

Powdermill Nature Reserve's Bird Banding Program, located on the 2200-ac biological field station of Carnegie Museum of Natural History in the Laurel Highlands region of southwestern Pennsylvania, completed its 46th consecutive fall migration banding season in 2007. We banded 8628 birds this season, in 16,764 net hours. The overall capture rate for this fall was 50.8 b/100nh. We banded 100 or more birds on 38 days this season. On seven of these days we banded over 200 individuals. The busiest days in terms of numbers of birds banded were on 16 Oct (379), 25 Oct (265), 4 Nov (245), 2 Oct (229), and 22 Sep (225).

Highlights for this season included a Sora captured on 6 Sep. Although Soras are often seen around our ponds at dusk they are seldom captured, and this bird represented the first capture since 2002. In fact, this was only the 13th Sora ever captured at Powdermill. On 20 Sep we captured an adult female Hooded Warbler that had an unusually extensive black hood and closely resembled a HY male. A very rare capture occurred on 5 Oct when

a Least Bittern was captured and banded. On 2 Nov we banded two Evening Grosbeaks, which were the first ones banded at Powdermill since 2001.

This year we made a substantial effort to contributed data to Project OwlNet, and we were rewarded by banding 106 Northern Saw-whet Owls. Lastly, we captured two Rufous Hummingbirds this fall (away from the Powdermill banding site). One of these was an unbanded individual and, amazingly, the other was a recaptured individual that had been banded by Powdermill staff at the exact same location the previous fall.

We thank many visiting bander friends and colleagues, interns, and volunteers for their help this season. For regular help with banding we thank Pam Ferkett, Kristin Sesser, Mary Shidel, Mike Comley, Lauren Schneider, and Dean Thompson. We also enjoyed visits and help from fellow banders, Powdermill staffers, and other volunteers: Rosemary Spreha, Guy Ubaghs, Keith McKenrick, Brent Worls, Emma DeLeon, Mike Allen, Mikey Lutmerding, Jo Anna Leachman, and David Holmes. We are also grateful to our bander development workshop participants for their help and participation: Bob Powell, Cailin O'Connor, Sandy Teliak, Ryan Trimbath, Daily Leonard, and P.J. Falatek. Lastly, we acknowledge the work of our data entry operator at Carnegie Museum's Section of Birds, Marilyn Niedermeier, who enters, checks, and double checks all of our banding records, and who is responsible for generating banding schedules and filling data requests.

Bedford Valley

395-0783

Bedford, Bedford County, PA

Janet Shaffer, Bander

The netting season ran from 14 Aug to 13 Oct, a total of 28 days from 6:30 am until noon. Usually ten 12-m nets were open and sometimes two 6-m nets were used. Netting was done on several days when there were no captures at all. Afternoon banding was tried but was no more successful.

For the last three years, American Goldfinch has been on the list of most commonly banded birds, topping this year's list at 19. Netting effort increased considerably from 2005, but the number of birds